

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/673,532
Reply to Office Action of December 1, 2006

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PATENT
450101-02344

JAN 29 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-19, 21-27, 37-42, 49-57, 64, 66-68, 70-72, 74 and 75 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 19, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 55, 64, 68, and 72, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 2, 11, and 20 are hereby canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 28-32 and Figures 4 and 5.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 10-14, 16, 37-40, 49-54, 64, and 66-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,216) in view of Vincent et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,659) and further in view of Dischert (U.S. Patent No. 4,499,494).

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/673,532
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Claims 19-23, 25, 41-42, 55-57, 72, and 74-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Vincent and Dischert and further in view of Official Notice.

Claims 6, 8-9, 15, 17-18, 24, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Vincent and further in view of Kondo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,235). The present invention is patentable over these references for at least the following reasons.

As understood by Applicants, Takahashi relates to an apparatus and method for processing a digital video signal having an inner block of pixel data that represents an image spatially located within an outer block of pixel data. A class code of the inner block of pixel data is determined in accordance with values of the pixels of both the inner and outer blocks; and coefficient data which corresponds to the class code of the inner block is retrieved from a memory and is used with the digital video signal to generate interpolated data to produce, for example, a high definition digital video signal.

As understood by Applicants, Vincent relates to an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) that is programmable for provision of timing and control of imaging signals, including genlock and defective pixel correction function. The ASIC stores information regarding the existence of a next closely spaced defective pixel as the least significant bits of an n-bit words address of a previous defective pixel and compares only the X location information for the next pixel.

As understood by Applicants, Dischert relates to a television camera or other source of color-representative signals such as R, G and B which includes a matrix to which the R, G and B signals are applied to form luminance (Y) and color-difference (I,Q) signals. The

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/673,532
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PATENT
450101-02344

source and matrix are coupled together by way of a signal path having a particular response or transfer function for the R, G and B signals over their normal range. Unavoidable noise occurring in the signals near black level may perturb the color-representative signals, and causes color errors. The errors are reduced by arranging the coupling to have a response to negative noise peaks into the blacker-than-black region. The response outside this normal range is complementary to the response within the normal range.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“... white-balancing means for white-balancing the input image signal to correct the gain of the clamped image signal supplied from the clamping means;

... pixel-generating means for generating a pixel at a position of the pixel of interest in accordance with the class determined by the class-determining means, said pixel having all color components,...”

(Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Takahashi, Vincent, Kondo, or Dischert, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, neither Takahashi, Vincent, Kondo, nor Dischert, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest white-balancing means for white-balancing the input image signal to correct the gain of the clamped image signal supplied from the clamping means, as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, neither Takahashi, Vincent, Kondo, nor Dischert, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest that the pixel-generating means generates a pixel having all color components at a position of the pixel of interest in accordance with the class determined by the class-determining means, as recited in claim 1.

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/673,532
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Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action has failed to provide a credible motivation to combine the reference teachings of Takahashi, Vincent, Kondo and Dischert. The motivation cited in the Office Action appears gleaned from Applicants' own disclosure, which is impermissible.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 10, 19, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 55, 64, 68, and 72 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

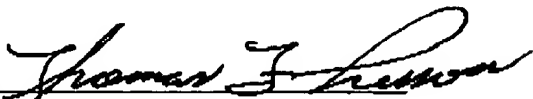
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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